(b) Kolleru Lake has been selected for conservation under the wetland scheme. An action plan involving an amount of Rs. 7.50 lakhs was sanctioned in 1987-88 for weed removal, acquisition of motor boats for patrolling and setting up of watch towers. Besides, an amount of Rs. 2.25 lakhs was sanctioned during 1986-87 and 1987-88 for the development of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary.

World Bank

807. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has recommended Dollar 3.8 billion aid to India as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 15th June, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the aid; and

(c) which are the projects to be financed by this aid amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The total aid pledges indicated at the Consortium Meeting held in Paris on June 20-21, 1988 were of the order of US $ 6.3 billion. Of this, US $3.9 billion is likely to be on concessional terms as compared with US $ 3.8 billion recommended by the World Bank.

(b) and (c) The detail such as terms and conditions of such assistance and project to be financed are known as and when bilateral and multilateral aid negotiations are completed/finalized.

Denudation of Forests

808. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a denudation of forests on a very large scale throughout the country at present;

(b) if so, the details of the forests which have been denuded during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether steps are being taken to control the denudation of forests in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Studies carried out by the National Remote sensing Agency, through satellite imagery have shown that the average annual rate of depletion of forest cover during the period 1972—75 to 1980—82 was approximately 1.3 million hectares. However, no study has been conducted to assess denudation of forests during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The major initiatives taken to conserve forests are listed below:—

1. Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.

(2) A centrally sponsored scheme has been started to help the States to develop infrastructure for enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forests.

3. Alternative sources of energy are being developed to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

4. Wood is being substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers and building constructions.

(5) Import policy for forest products has been liberalised.

6. Fiscal incentives are given to industries for wood substitution.

7. Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.